



TEXAS FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with TSTA/NEA

October 23, 2020

Dr. Neil Matkin
District President
Collin College

Dear Dr. Matkin:

Representing members across the state, the Texas Faculty Association expresses concern about the failure of Collin College to support and to protect faculty's right to freedom of speech.

The hallmark of freedom of speech is to protect and defend that freedom even if others find certain speech offensive. If we only support free speech when we are in agreement with what is said or how it is said, there is no freedom of speech. As such, the Texas Faculty Association supports our faculty colleagues as private citizens to engage in free speech.

We urge the leadership of Collin College to remove their official statement of October 12, 2020, chastising a faculty member for exercising free speech. We find this statement to be at odds with Collin College policy regarding academic freedom as college leadership did not "uphold vigorously the principles of academic freedom and to protect the faculty from harassment, censorship, or interference from outside groups and individuals." At least one faculty member has faced harassment and threats since that time. We believe that the statement issued by Collin College emboldened some of those making such threats.

The college should rescind the statement from October 12. Further, the college should replace it with a public statement upholding Collin College's core values and unreservedly affirming the rights of academic freedom and free speech.

Respectfully,

Pat Heintzelman
President, Texas Faculty Association
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